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# **THE American Way**

AN ADDRESS BY

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# THE AMERICAN WAY

This Ninth Annual Conference of the National Farm Chemurgic Council meets at a moment when the imperative demand for production is greater than ever before in the history of chemurgy—greater than ever, even, in the history of production.

The cause of freedom can soonest and most certainly be victorious only if armed with the best and most of everything. We must out-produce to overwhelm.

If this conference can point the way toward quicker and more abundant supply of any essential, or if it can inspire a single idea to that end, it may well justify all the effort that has been built into chemurgy.

Destruction is a voracious consumer. For the only time since the first winters of the earliest colonization days, Americans are confronted by the phenomenon of a food shortage. Shocked by the prospect of less abundant food, America dare not forget that agriculture now has war machines as well as human beings to feed. Both must be kept well-stocked. Raw materials for airplanes and ships and guns, hardly less essential than breakfasts and dinners, are being grown on farms.

In some cases industrial materials will compete for acreage with food and feed crops. Hemp and castor beans cannot be raised where corn or carrots also grow. To a far greater extent, however, increased production will mean more of both. The more milk there is for cheese, the more protein there is for casein fibers. The more soybeans, the more oil, both for food and factory, the more meal both for feed and for industry. The more flax for linseed oil the more meal there is for feed and the more fibers there are for paper. The grain that goes into industrial alcohol yields a substantial by-product for beef or butter.

The proportion of usable wealth to be derived from an acre's production is becoming larger. From its initial concept chemurgy has meant **maximum utilization of maximum production**. It has insisted that ways be found to use the high as well as the low values of the harvest—the stalk as well as the grain, the shell as well as the kernel, the weed as well as the crop.

The realities of war, with its insatiable needs, have made clear, as never before, the complete wisdom of this doctrine. No material nor any part of any material is valueless now, unless it is some-

thing which no one yet understands. The only wastes are those things for which no one has so far found uses.

It is appropriate here to pay tribute to the scores of industrial companies, to the research men in those companies, to the research men in federal laboratories and state experiment stations, and to the lone inquirers who, with imagination and patience and risk and hard work have, over the years, in the spirit of chemurgy, so amazingly increased the utilization of plant raw materials.

They have found values in materials which ten or twenty years ago had no known value. They have increased the value of substances which had little value, and have found many values where before there were few. Their every addition to knowledge has enlarged our national resources. Their untrammelled spirit of ceaseless inquiry is itself truly one of the foremost resources of the nation. They are the spearhead of the American way.

**If I could make but one recommendation toward reducing the danger of depression after the war, it would be this: That no competent research scientist in any field be permitted to be unemployed for a single day.**

From the beginning of a research project until the time when new knowledge builds a factory, ready to consume raw materials, employ labor, and to add a higher rung to the standard of living, may be from five to ten years. For perhaps that long after the war, business and agriculture may be kept busy filling the reservoirs of demand now being depleted by destruction. Added impetus will come from research developments which, perfected now for war's devices, will be turned to the uses of peace.

If every research worker is kept employed through that period new springs of production will begin to flow before the slack time comes. New springs of production will make more jobs than can be expected from "priming the pump."

Free enterprise, if it is to stay free, must continuously expand. When private enterprise falters in meeting its obligations to maintain production and employment, **political enterprise intervenes**. New knowledge, uniquely the product of scientific research, is the one force able to create constant expansion.

The American way of doing things stems in every particular back to the American's freedom. Free to work, free to move, free to think, free to

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apply his initiative, free to enjoy his rewards, the American has led the world in finding out what the good earth is for. Because he has produced abundantly he has been able to live abundantly. The fires of freedom boil the pot of production.

Today, wherever the spark of liberty burns, human beings are hopeful that American productive power will redeem the human race from slavery. Though perhaps still dimly, they realize that the American way is the hope of humanity. They know that American fighting power must turn the tide against the predatory forces of darkness.

The essence of the American way is production. Americanism is not predatory. The standard of living which has astonished the world has not been achieved by aggression to steal what others possessed. Americans built prosperity by making new wealth for themselves, not by taking old wealth from others. Americans have proved that the production economy is immensely more profitable than the old predatory economies. **Making and growing things pays better than taking things.**

Until the victory is final, the whole great production power of American farms and factories must be hurled against the enemies. War is our business. War is our way of life until the predatory nations are crushed. War can be won only by facing facts.

If realism is the rule of war, should it be any less regarded in the years of peace into which we hope the world one day will enter? Even a casual glance toward the postwar era cannot escape some of the grim facts in prospect.

The workers of the nation, including millions of men putting off their uniforms, will need jobs at peace time occupations.

The unprecedented debt of the nation will be an over-hanging menace with which there can be but one safe way to deal. The only safe way will be to pay it. Only production can pay the debt.

Intelligent self-interest will require that the United States take some part in restoring order in the Old World, in alleviating human suffering, and in aiding humanity to begin living again in peace.

Experience offers proof enough that in the American way can be found the answers to the problems of the future.

Over a century and a half we have found means to do more work, and produce more wealth, and thus steadily to push back the barriers of poverty.



Science has multiplied our capacity to understand the laws of nature's forces and materials. Nature's forces have been harnessed until engine and motor power have immensely multiplied the work men can do. Under freedom, the American way has created, in the use of science and power, forces that, if permitted, can transform human lives all over the earth in the next century and a half.

Political organization of nations can help or hinder progress, according to whether or not they maintain the conditions of freedom. They do not grow food. They do not create wealth. Only intelligent initiative, free to be exercised without improper hindrance, can multiply the productiveness of work. Only a world at creative and productive work can make itself into a better living space.

Therefore, the United States has a tremendous gift to offer humanity. It is the American way of productive work.

**Our first obligation is to our own country.** The American way must first meet the grim challenge of the future at home. Power and science must be put in the hands of more of our own people, until all of them can produce enough to share in the American standard of living.

**The same instruments and methods will produce in other lands.** Science and power, if applied in the American way, will feed the hungry in India and China. They will produce more wealth in Africa or Europe as well as here.

The hungry and weary peoples of the Old World will not thank us for deciding how they shall be governed. They no more wish to have imposed upon them an American imperialism than any other rule. They do not wish us to prescribe their ways of life.

But wherever understanding reaches, welcome can be expected for better tools of living. Everywhere are people who desire their toil to yield more goods, who have use for better farming implements, better transportation, better tools of health and better education. There are many who will be eager to adapt to their own circumstances the wealth-creating arts of the American way. **On a sound business basis** we may be able to extend to other peoples our engines of production, our creative science, along with a share of the American managerial experience which makes these instruments pay their way.

Nothing is quite so important to any family in any continent as making a living. The common man has never prospered highly for long in any

country when his living was gained from the exploitation of raw materials to be sold to some other country. His standard of living has risen whenever he has been able to produce abundantly for domestic use. If the American way of production extends to other countries, the purpose should primarily be to expand the production of goods the people there can consume for themselves.

**Chemurgy's concept—maximum production for maximum utilization—is international.** Wherever the rain falls and the sun shines on arable ground, men who will work in the American way with powerful tools and powerful knowledge can enrich their countries. They can increase the yield of the soil and multiply the goods created from that yield.

Probably no nation can hope to be wholly self-sufficient. However, as each nation becomes more nearly so with rising production establishing a higher standard of living, with people and land more profitably employed, **the volume of trade with other nations will also rise.** As each becomes more prosperous its people will demand more raw materials and exotic goods with which others are better favored. **Trade is always better with those who have than with those who have not.**

We have learned a good bit of that lesson here in the United States. We prefer the production economy to the predatory philosophy. We know that the more one creates, the more there is for others. That is the sign of the American Way. It applies to nations as well as to individuals.

Under the production economy the Golden Rule can be applied among nations as well as among individuals. No starry-eyed idealist has found a better rule than the Golden Rule. None has found a rainbow with brighter hope than lies in power and science and work. **None has found a better formula for the common man's tomorrow than the American way, production.**